

User Information Sheet 031

NCC Code of Practice 306: Motorhomes - Fixed LPG tanks for habitation purposes

The National Caravan Council (NCC) in conjunction with UKLPG has recently issued a new Code of Practice, which is available to purchase from the NCC.

This Code covers the requirements for permanently installed (fixed) LPG tanks to provide LPG vapour for cooking and heating in motorhomes. These fixed tanks can be refilled at LPG refuelling stations and have the advantage that there is no requirement to obtain 'country specific' LPG cylinders while touring in other countries. Fixed LPG tanks are permitted to travel through the Channel Tunnel. Further details can be found on the euro tunnel website section:

<http://www.eurotunnel.com/uk/site-information/lpg>

Fixed fuel tanks for vapour withdrawal should not be confused with fixed refillable cylinders. These cylinders are covered by UKLPG UIS026, and fall outside the scope of NCC Code of Practice 306.

National Caravan Council; Code of Practice 306; 2013 includes guidance for installation and maintenance on:

- Tank design
- Correct tank installation
- Commissioning of the tank
- Vapour system installation
- Guidance for consumers
- Recommendations for annual and 10 year inspections
- Requirements for tank maintenance
- Garaging and repairs
- Recommendations on the safe removal and scrapping of tanks
- Competencies for those involved in the installation and maintenance of fixed fuel tanks.

Important

Fixed LPG vapour tanks for 'habitation use' requires the use of a purpose designed tank with vapour withdrawal, which are different to Automotive tanks for propulsion use (see UKLPG Code of Practice 11, Autogas Installations). The withdrawal connection has an anti-splash protection baffle to reduce the risk of any liquid LPG entering into the vapour tube while the vehicle is in motion, whilst Automotive tanks are designed for the safe transfer of LPG to fuel the engine. Automotive tanks have different valve arrangements and are stamped with the design specification from the manufacturer which only covers the tanks for their intended use of safe withdrawal of LPG.

Under no circumstances should these tanks be converted to Fixed LPG vapour duty for 'habitation use'.

Incorrect fitting or alteration to any fixed LPG tank may result in personal injury and non-compliance with the vehicles insurance policy. In addition, the installations including tanks need to be checked on a regular basis to confirm safe operation for continued use.

Further information can be obtained from the following:

www.thencc.org.uk